

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VICKY HARTZLER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2014*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 15, 2014, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 497, "yea."

## HONORING ALEXANDER LAPP

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2014*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Lapp. Alex is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alex has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alex remodeled a loft at Liberty Christian Fellowship Church in Liberty, Missouri, repainting it and adding railings and other safety improvements as the church converts the loft from a space for teenage youth to a space for children to meet.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Lapp for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF NANCY STEPHENS CAMPBELL

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2014*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to honor Nancy Stephens Campbell on occasion of her 100th birthday.

Ms. Campbell was born September 16th, 1914 in Borden Springs in Cleburne County, Alabama. She went to school in Chulafinnee through 7th grade, moving to Ranburne schools in 9th grade. She graduated from high school in Selma in 1933. After graduating, Nancy returned to Cleburne County to teach. She married Hugh Campbell, of Heflin, and together they had four children. Between their children Hugh Jr., Jim, Linda and Ann, Ms. Campbell has 10 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Nancy Campbell taught preschool at Heflin First United Methodist Church for many years, and the children there began to call her "Nannie." She has been a member of Chulafinnee United Methodist Church her entire adult life. Ms. Campbell has resided at Au-

turn Cove Retirement Community in Anniston for the past three years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Ms. Campbell's 100th birthday today.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH "BEBO" MANJIKIAN

**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2014*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long, full life of a beloved constituent, family man, athlete, gardener, centenarian, and genocide survivor: Joseph "Bebo" Manjikian.

I had the great pleasure of celebrating Bebo's 104th birthday with him and a great many members of his family, the Armenian community in the San Gabriel Valley of California, and other local elected officials. Bebo was an extraordinary man and an example of triumph over tragedy.

He was a man who, well into his 90s, was power-lifting and competing in the Senior Olympics, winning gold medals no less. Bebo trained by staying active with a unique blend of traditional exercise and his diligent gardening, tilling the soil and tending to his cherished fruit trees. It was said that if everyone did this, the way Bebo did, their fitness would be rewarded with good crops and a beautiful garden. And in many ways, this was the philosophy of Bebo's life. He believed in being a role model through his actions. He would say, "You have to walk the walk."

Bebo was also a genocide survivor. He was born in 1910 in the Armenian village of Kessab, which was then part of the Ottoman Empire. His father, an Armenian officer conscripted into the Ottoman Army, was killed in the Armenian genocide of 1915. Bebo and the rest of his family were driven from their village and forced into exile by Turkish soldiers. Their village was destroyed and they endured sickness and hunger, walking for miles. They could not stop or they risked being shot, so his mother fed her children with weeds and grass. Eventually Kessab became part of Syria after World War I and Bebo was able to return. And, though his life would ultimately take him far from his childhood home, he ended up marrying a woman also from his village, named Sara. Bebo rejoiced in Sara's traditional cooking, harkening back to the couple's roots. They never forgot where they came from, and never ceased to keep their best memories and traditions alive.

Bebo was a self-taught man and entrepreneur of great skill. At 18 he left his village again and settled in Palestine, where he lived for over two decades and worked as a mechanic for the British Army. In 1950 he came to the United States with his young family and settled in Inglewood, California, where he operated his own mechanic shop for 25 years. His family recalls that he could fix anything, and he would tell them "In Kessab, there were no Home Depots." Once again, he taught others through his example, not only sharing his skills but also his belief in empowering himself and others. He also spoke a remarkable seven languages, despite much formal education. These included German, French, Hebrew, Turkish, Arabic, English, Armenian, and Kessaberen.

Perhaps most of all, Bebo was a family and community man. He and Sara eventually moved to the West Hills and spent much time with family in Pasadena. They had three children, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Bebo was always quick to help a relative or friend in need, opening his home to them. After his retirement he worked at Camp Kessab, an Armenian youth camp in California focused on traditions from Bebo's home village. He was instrumental in keeping the place going. Bebo was deeply devoted to his family and community, sharing stories and testifying to over a century of history, still sharp in his mind.

His loss is a loss for all of us. He was an incomparable repository of experiences; an unbelievable specimen of physical and mental acuity; an exemplary citizen and humanitarian. But most of all Bebo was an inspiration to know. He will be greatly missed and long remembered; he who always walked the walk.

## RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TRINI MESTRE-QUIROZ

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2014*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Trini Mestre-Quiroz. Mrs. Mestre-Quiroz is an example of leadership and dedication.

Born in Guayaquil, Ecuador, she moved to New York at age fifteen. She later moved to New Jersey where she met her late husband, Jose Manuel Mestre, and became a mother to two wonderful daughters, Jacqueline and Jeannette.

Upon moving to New Jersey, Mrs. Mestre-Quiroz began her lasting commitment to civic involvement. She was instrumental in the creation of several community-based organizations, including the first multi-cultural, multi-lingual day care center in New Jersey.

Due to her community leadership, Mrs. Mestre-Quiroz was selected to become the first minority female to serve as an assistant to a Mayor of a major city in New Jersey. She was later appointed to serve as one of 200 nationwide Community Service Specialists for the Department of Commerce.

During the early seventies, Mrs. Mestre-Quiroz worked tirelessly with the students and faculty at her alma mater, Rutgers University, in order to further the implementation of affirmative action measures. Her efforts helped persuade the university to hire its first Hispanic Dean of Academics at its Newark campus.

Mrs. Mestre-Quiroz is active in politics and has been involved in local and federal elections in New York, New Jersey, and Florida. She currently serves as Secretary and Chair-in-Waiting for the Black, Latino and Puerto Rican Alliance for Justice of Florida.

I am honored to recognize Trini Mestre-Quiroz, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her lifelong commitment to serving her community.